

PRESENT LAND POLICY FAVORED

Public Lands Convention Opposed To Any Change in Customs As to Grazing of Stock.

GOVERNMENT FORCES LOST.

On Test Vote Defeated—Free Use of Waters in Forest Reserves Advocated—President's Views.

Denver, June 20.—The first public land convention ever held came to an end late this afternoon with the adoption of a series of resolutions which were not so radical as expected. A letter was received from President Roosevelt and was a feature of the day's session. The resolution over which there was the most dispute read:

"We oppose any change in the existing law and customs as to grazing live stock upon the public domain, outside of forest reserves."

The resolutions say that experience has demonstrated the wisdom of the policy of treating the lands of the nation as a public trust to be disposed of in all cases and wherever possible to actual settlers. The people of the west are unalterably opposed to any change in this wholesome and beneficial policy. Forest reserves should only be created where they do not intrude upon the rights of the people of the states and the people of the states to the free and unimpeded use of all waters within forest reservations should be not only permitted but encouraged, and no change should be imposed thereon. The necessity of forest reservations is recognized by this convention and reasonable regulations by the government commended.

The resolution, however, favors the prompt elimination from forest reservations of all lands not timbered or suitable for reforestation or reasonably necessary to conserve the flow of streams used for irrigation. It is especially urged that the reports of special and secret service agents of the land department and of the department of agriculture shall be made under oath. A modification of any existing orders which prevent bona fide filings on any of the public lands is demanded. The national irrigation law is heartily endorsed.

It is asked that Congress legislate appropriately with respect to school lands in reservations so that each state deprived of these lands may receive its full quota of lands or its equivalent, for the purpose for which they were originally intended.

It is finally demanded that in states wherein forest reserves are situated and not desired and are excessive, the reservation should be reduced to reasonable limits whether the land be restored contains timber or not. At the opening of today's session the delegates were looking forward to a warm fight on the floor of the convention over resolutions in favor of turning the public grazing lands over to the various western states for local management and against "the inauguration of any policy that will result in the United States government becoming the permanent holder and landlord of the remaining public lands or the natural resources connected therewith."

A REMARKABLE CONVENTION. The convention has been remarkable in that its discussions have been almost entirely confined to criticism of

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of the Mississippi river. The report was adopted.

Secy. Garfield made a lengthy argument in support of the position assumed by his department. He read a letter from President Roosevelt which was addressed to Secy. of Agriculture Wilson, when it was expected the would be present at the convention. The letter in part follows:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

"There has been placed in my hands a paper purporting to be issued by the program committee of the public lands convention to be held in Denver. The preliminary discussion of the general subject in this paper contains several statements to which I desire to call your special attention, as they not merely misrepresent the attitude of the administration, but portray that attitude in the most direct reverse of what it really is.

"The first and most important of these misstatements is to the effect that there has been a change in the public land policy of the government, which change will result in depriving the western states of the right to settle the public lands with American citizens. This allegation directly reverses the actual facts. The course the government is now pursuing is to carry out the traditional home-making policy of the United States as to its public lands. The most interested in opposing the action of the administration are themselves endeavoring to upset the traditional course of the government and are doing all in their power to turn the public lands over to be exploited by rich men and powerful corporations whose interests are hostile to those of the home-makers.

"The policy of the present administration has steadily been, is now and will be, to promote and foster actual settling actual home-making on the public lands in every possible way.

"We have incurred the violent hostility of the individuals and corporations seeking, by fraud and sometimes by violence, to acquire and monopolize great tracts of the public domain to the exclusion of settlers. The beneficiaries and instigators of, or participants in, the frauds, of course, disapprove the acts of the administration. But if the administration's policy is upset the one man who would be irreparably injured would be the settler, the home-maker, the man of small means, who has taken up a farm which he intends himself to work and on the proceeds of which he intends to support and bring up his family.

"Last year the coal lands were withdrawn from settlement to enable Congress to consider a law to protect the public interests against the great coal monopolies, by leasing the right to mine the public coal. Unfortunately, Congress failed to act in the matter, and most of the coal lands have been already restored to entry, while the remainder are being restored as rapidly as the necessary examinations in the field can be made.

"As a matter of actual fact, most of the coal lands have hitherto been taken under some form of entry other than those of the coal entry laws, and in many cases by actual fraud. To admit that they are not, is to renew its efforts to get Congress to pass a law which will do away with the fraud.

"The writers of the program state that the plan for government control of the range submitted to Congress last winter involved the perpetual ownership of the lands by the government. This statement is not in accord with the facts. This proposed law specifically provided that the range land under government control should be open to entry or location under all of the public land laws and provided in every way for the protection of the rights of the settler.

"As a matter of fact, one of the prime reasons for advocating its passage is because if enacted it would safeguard the rights of the home-maker on the public range far more effectively than they are now safeguarded, and would make settlement easier, and than it can possibly be under present conditions.

"As to the forest reserves, their creation has damaged just one class: the managers and owners of great lumber companies, which by illegal, fraudulent or unfair methods have desired to get possession of the valuable timber of the public domain, to skin the land and to abandon it when impoverished well nigh to the point of worthlessness.

"It has been alleged that the government intends to make the users of water for irrigation pay for their water. There has never been any such intention, and no such course will be followed while the present administration is in existence. But owners of water power within national forests should certainly pay something for the valuable services rendered by them by the government. They are not being charged and cannot be charged for the water so far as the national government is concerned, but for the protection to their watersheds, which they themselves would have to bear the cost of supplying if the government did not supply it for them.

"Mr. Garfield said it was the policy of the interior department to put an actual settler on every acre of agricultural land in the forest reserves. The secretary denied the intention to do anything unconstitutional in regard to the public lands. After prolonged discussion the report of the committee on resolutions was adopted, and the convention adjourned sine die.

BROWNSVILLE AFFAIR.

Senator Foraker Feels He Has Only Done His Duty.

Xenia, O., June 20.—On the campus of Wilberforce university this afternoon Senator Joseph B. Foraker discussed the matters developed by the senatorial investigation of the Brownsville shooting.

The occasion was the annual commencement of the college. It followed enthusiastic demonstrations to the senator both in this city and at the college.

Senator Foraker paid tribute to the colored soldiers in the Spanish-American war, declaring that "no braver troops bore the flag to victory in that contest than the Ninth and Tenth cavalry and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth infantry."

"I don't question the good faith of the president or the secretary of war, but when I looked at the reports and the testimony of the Brownsville investigation, upon which the president acted, I felt that, whether it was intentional or not, I had been misled.

"The investigation may prove futile to establish the truth, but it always will be known who did the firing, but it always will be known that the men have at least had a chance to state their side of the case. If for what I have done in their behalf I am to be eliminated from public life, as has been proclaimed, then let it be known that I shall at least carry a private life the satisfaction of knowing I have been rebuked for an action I shall never regret."

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Genuine Cake Walk. Fifty people. Dancing, Singing, Musical. \$250.00 in Prizes. Excursion via Oregon Short Line, Round Trip \$1.00. Any train Ogleen 10:45 p. m.

Sunday is "Rose Day" at Lagoon.

GO TO THE HERMITAGE

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Every mother feels a great dread of the pain and danger attendant upon the most critical period of her life. Becoming a mother should be a source of joy to all, but the suffering and danger incident to the ordeal makes its anticipation one of misery. Mother's Friend is the only remedy which relieves women of the great pain and danger of maternity; this hour which is dreaded as woman's severest trial is not only made painless, but all the danger is avoided by its use. Those who use this remedy are no longer despondent or gloomy; nervousness, nausea and other distressing conditions are overcome, the system is made ready for the coming event, and the serious accidents so common to the critical hour are obviated by the use of Mother's Friend. "It is worth its weight in gold," says many who have used it. \$1.00 per bottle at drug stores. Book containing valuable information of interest to all women, will be sent to any address free upon application to

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LAKE SHORE FROM CHICAGO \$32.05

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